

## Every Person is Both a Learner and Teacher

At HMS this core value, that every person is both a learner and a teacher, helps us to recognize that each individual contributes to the vitality of the community.

One of the best ways to retain the information we learn is to teach it to others. This is known as the *protege effect*. Researchers have found that when students are asked to teach others, they work harder to understand the material, they remember it more accurately, and they apply it more effectively.

HMS teachers have created many ways to implement this idea into everyday learning. Not only does it help with understanding the subject material, it also cultivates responsibility and boosts confidence.

Melina Beidler, grade 8, has tutored Kindergarten students with math concepts (see photo on pg 3). *"One day we were working on even and odd numbers. We had stacks of coins in different amounts to divide into two groups. [At first] they didn't get it, but as I was working with them, I saw Dylan's and Reagan's eyes light up as they got the difference between even*

*and odd numbers. I loved being the one to help them through it. It was a great experience," she reflects. [Tutoring] "has helped me become a better student."*

One well-loved program at HMS is Book Buddies. Elementary classes pair up weekly for a relaxing reading experience: third graders read to kindergartners; fourth graders read to second graders; and fifth graders read to first graders. Students find it fun; teachers like the reading practice and the opportunity for the older students to be mentors. Kristie Ranck, second grade teacher, says, *"It is always neat to see the fourth grader take the second grader under their wing during Book Buddies and form a friendship."*

Young Writers' Week is an annual tradition in which students are introduced to a local author (often in person) and then devote most of the week to writing a piece that will be shared with their peers, or in some cases, students they look up to. In February 2020, Kindergarten students wrote stories about overcoming fear and then shared them with the eighth graders.

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Book Buddies Aslan Umble (Gr. 3) and Jordan Groce (K)  
(March 2020).

# In a Classroom of 16 Students, There Should be 17 Learners

There is always room to grow and improve as an educator, and the HMS Administration encourages all teachers to find ways to continue their learning, to embrace innovation, and to develop the skills and confidence they need to help our students achieve success. HMS provides several days of Staff Development experiences each year. In the past five years, staff members have participated in trainings on topics including:

- Strategies to develop skillful readers
- Higher-level questioning/critical thinking skills
- Differentiated instruction for individual needs
- Tech integration for homebound learning
- Meeting the needs of various personalities

Our teachers have not only participated in these sessions provided by the school, they have pursued learning on their own.

- Several teachers have earned master's degrees (Special Education, Classroom Technology, Literacy & Administration)
- One teacher has earned a doctorate and continues to take courses in science and preparing pupils for the workforce
- Some teachers are pursuing master's degrees (Integration of Technology, Differentiation of Learning Styles/Abilities and Early Childhood Education)
- Faculty continue to learn by attending IU conferences, participating in webinars, joining online teacher groups, studying current research related to reading and math instruction and remote technology

- Teachers make use of educational journals, magazines, and our HMS professional library; they also visit other schools to gain new ideas and techniques

Last, but certainly not least, our own students provide daily opportunities to expand our growth. Great teachers never stop learning!

— **by Deb Abbey**  
**Assistant Principal**



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**Hinkletown Mennonite School**

272 Wanner Road, Ephrata, PA 17522

**Email:** [office@hinkletownschool.org](mailto:office@hinkletownschool.org)

**Website:** [www.hinkletownschool.org](http://www.hinkletownschool.org)

**Administrator/Principal:** Dawn Landes

**Director of Advancement:** Jody Fausnight

**Director of Enrollment:** Melissa Beidler

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## Visit HMS Prospective Family Open House Days

Thursday,  
**February 4, 2021**

Wednesday,  
**February 10, 2021**

**Schedule a visit during  
the school day  
9 am - 3 pm**

**Drop in anytime  
from 3 pm - 8 pm**

**call** 717-354-7100

**email** [mbeidler@hinkletownschool.org](mailto:mbeidler@hinkletownschool.org)





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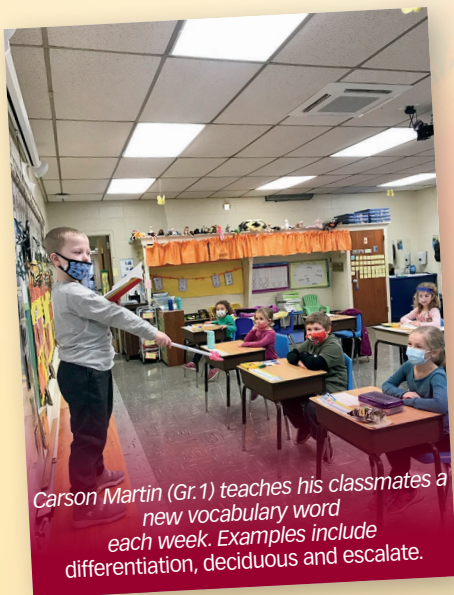
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Caeley Zimmerman, grade 9, mentors several violin students on a weekly basis. "Tutoring younger students is helping me to learn how individual students have different personalities and need to be taught in ways that help them learn best. Since I want to be a teacher, this is good training on how to best help students learn."

Interestingly, it's the emotions involved that create such a positive learning experience: students who teach what they know want their peers to succeed and they feel a sense of pride and satisfaction at someone else's accomplishment.



Melina Beidler worked with Reagan Horning and Dylan Charles on STEM activities such as building and solving mazes. (Winter 2020)



Carson Martin (Gr.1) teaches his classmates a new vocabulary word each week. Examples include differentiation, deciduous and escalate.



Caeley Zimmerman tutors Jade Sauder (Gr. 5) on violin.



Kindergarten students share their stories with 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

## High School Leaders at Solid Rock Camp

Over the past eight years, Solid Rock Camp has become a summer tradition at HMS. As campers compete in sports, make new friends, and deepen their faith, they are encouraged by a great group of counselors and coaches. This leadership team includes high school students from the HMS Venture Program and other local high schools. After completing a training to start the summer, the high school students are invited to put their developing leadership skills into practice as they lead small groups of younger students through all the fun activities of sports camps.

While transitioning into a new role is not always easy, high school students stepping into leadership spots at Solid Rock Camp have shown maturity and willingness to adapt to new situations. As they focus on their campers' needs and consistently bring positivity and smiles, they create a safe and fun atmosphere where younger kids thrive. It's a blessing to see these young leaders committed to learning and walking the path God has set before them.

— by Jeremy Horning



Kolton Martin (Gr. 11) leads an elementary group at Solid Rock Camp (Summer 2020).





## Alumni Spotlight

**Monica (Stoltzfus) Garber** graduated from HMS in 2003 and went on to be an educator, first in a long-term substitute position at HMS and then as an art teacher and in elementary administration at Linville Hill Christian School. She is now working at home raising her new baby girl.

*"HMS gave me a strong Biblical foundation that shaped my faith and worldview," reflects Monica, "I think about the staff and the way they invested in their students. [They] took time to see me as an individual and helped me to identify and cultivate my unique God-given gifts. As an educator myself, I know that this takes time and energy that goes above and beyond just teaching required content."*

Monica is grateful for the influence of some key teachers in her life, one of them being Mrs. Lain, her first piano teacher. *"I started taking piano lessons from her in first grade, as soon as I could read. I had a deep love for music and was already playing piano by ear, trying to pick out melodies I heard at church. [Mrs. Lain] helped me to use this ability while also teaching me the music theory and technique I needed to become a better musician."* Monica currently leads worship at Weaverland Anabaptist Faith Community, the church she and her husband Asher attend.

After graduating from Garden Spot High School, Monica traveled to Kenya with EMM's Youth Evangelism Service (YES). This experience led Monica to choose a career in elementary education. She credits her interest in traveling and in people of other cultures to HMS' participation in MCC's International Volunteer Exchange Program (IVEP) in which HMS hosts an international teacher each year.

Monica feels God is calling her to care for her family in this phase of life, recognizing it as *"Kingdom work, just as teaching was."*



Monica, Asher and Ellie Garber